

The Present Is the Future

This week the book has been closed on the entire post-war chapter of world history. The era of post-war capitalist prosperity is ended. All that is left of that past is frightened people hanging to the tattered shreds of their obsessive illusions.

Santa Claus is dead. Donner and Blitzen are rotting in the streets. Santa Claus's corpse, with a few bits of flesh and hair still sticking to the skull, lies slumped across the sleigh. There are a few onlookers cheerfully telling themselves that Santa Claus will be back on the roofs, as usual, come Christmas.

Look at their faces: Their eyes a little too widely opened, the smile too grimly drawn. There is a quaver in their tight voices as they speak. Look in the mirror: it is yourself.

You have not seen it all. Soon, you will lose your job — probably to a "welfare loafer," a methadone-crazed dope-fiend, a battle-fatigued veteran, some gang member brought in from a ghetto neighborhood. Then you will lose your house as the mortgage is foreclosed, the car is repossessed, and then you too are a "welfare loafer" being herded to take a job away from the guy working next to you today. That's your future, and the future has already begun.

You have two ways to go.

The Dionysians

To see one of these alternatives today, look at the black and Spanish-speaking ghettos. They are no longer somebody else's world. They are your future, the future Herbert Hoover Nixon is building for you. They are yourself, crazed by poverty, turned into an animal like Newark's fascist LeRoi Jones Baraka. Hungry? Like Baraka, you will eat your neighbor "in the name of 'Community Control.'" Cold winter? You will burn your neighbor's house to warm yourself. You will be a vulture and think like a buzzard. Like Papa Doc Baraka, you will eat carrion, think carrion — AND BECOME CARRION.

You think not? We know you better than you know yourself.

When you see a black mother thrown off "welfare" to starve because of some "eligibility" frame-up, what do you say? "Another welfare chiseller off my tax-back"? If you do, you are already thinking like a vulture. That black mother and her children today are you and your children tomorrow. If you already think like a vulture, how will you act when the cry of "Every man for himself!" goes up in your neighborhood? You will think and act like a buzzard.

Be Human

Unless — you decide to become human now. The future is the present. What you become now, is the life you and your children will have tomorrow. We will say it out loud. We do not apologize to you for being "communists." We do not explain to you that we have the right to be "communists" if we choose. We do not explain to you why you should tolerate "communists." Right now, and in the years just ahead, there are only two kinds of two-legged talking hominids in the U.S.A. — "communists" and animals. Within five to six years at the most, there will be socialism in North America and Western Europe or else there will be Brazil and Auschwitz everywhere.

Ah, but you have no time to "mess with 'Communism.'" You have a

Allege Gov't Initiated Race-Baiting in Phila.

PHILADELPHIA, March 12 — A black community organizer has informed the Labor Committees that North Philadelphia welfare and community organizers have recently been subjected to taped hate phone messages from the National Socialist White People's Party, a self-styled Nazi organization. The messages, viciously racist and anti-semitic, circulate throughout the ghetto, adding fuel to the distrust that many oppressed minorities feel toward white working people.

The North Philadelphia organizer reports that she and others who have listened to the taped message believe that the Nazis claim support from "the National Labor Committee" for their racist filth. The taped message can no longer be heard and is unavailable according to the Philadelphia Police Department.

While there is no DIRECT evidence that this slander against the Labor Committees was INITIATED by undercover government agents working with the Nazis, the "confusion" arose during the height of a campaign by Urban Coalition paid poverty agents to destroy the credibility of the NCLC in North Philadelphia during the recent teachers' strike. The Urban Coalition has tried to split the Labor Committee from pro-working class community organizers who wanted to join the Committee to Rebuild NWRO, by accusing

the "white socialists" in the NCLC of "using black people."

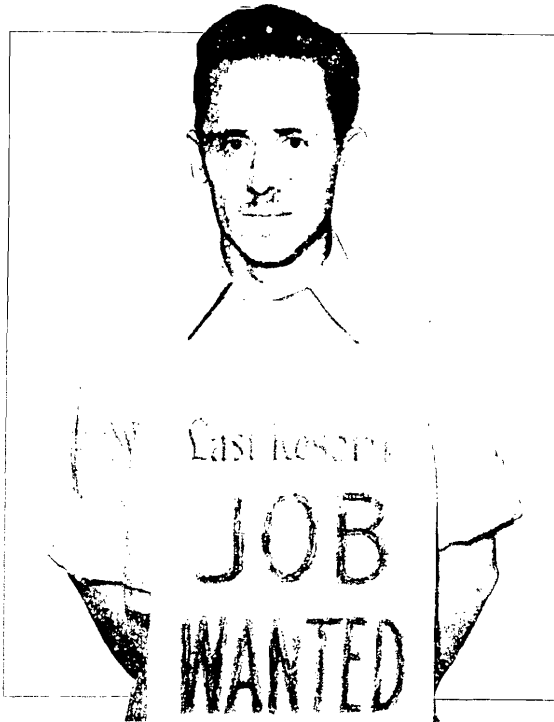
To combat this sabotage of the organizing for the March 31 NWRO Convention, the Philadelphia Labor Committee has released a statement to the press, all city black and Jewish groups, and all North Philadelphia community organizations. The statement reads in part:

"The open purpose of these 'hate messages' is to organize white citizens for 'White Power.' As such, these messages represent an implicit call for race war.

"In so far as the messages are circulated throughout the city, The National Socialist White People's Party is also responsible for inciting anger and hatred against white gentiles among black, Puerto Rican, and Jewish people....

"Although the National Socialist White People's Party calls itself 'socialist,' it is an avowedly rightwing organization based on the fascist ideas of Adolf Hitler, and should not be confused with any socialist or communist organization on the left.

"The National Caucus of Labor Committees, publishers of New Solidarity, have since their founding in 1968 fought for united struggles of black and white. Currently, they are calling upon white and black trade unionists to defend predominantly black welfare organizers who are fighting workfare."



family to worry about; you have to be "practical"? Better to see your children, five years from now, in a fascist state, than to be a "communist" now? "We trade unionists have ways of doing things you don't seem to understand." What a miserable fool you are if you believe such silly things.

Trade unions are finished as effective self-contained fighting forces for real wages and job conditions; anyway, nearly all the top trade-union leaders have already joined the enemy camp with Meany! You are going to get back to honest, militant trade-unionism with a "militant rank-and-file caucus"? You are playing a bad joke on yourself. We speak frankly: you are being infantile, Santa Claus is not coming this Christmas.

Then you dig up another argument. You say, "What does this little paper know about important things like that?" Now, you have really walked into it. This little paper speaks for the only people throughout the entire world who have known which end was up for the past fifteen years! We have correctly predicted every part of the development of the world and national economy for more than ten years. We have been absolutely right when every government expert, every trade-union official, and everyone else has been consistently flat wrong.

On the record, this little paper represents the only group of people anywhere in the world who know which end is up — who know how to discover which end is up. Check it out for yourself; check back on what we have said in this little paper in the past and compare that with what happened. Check out everyone else you can think of in this same way.

You have only this choice. You can choose to ride along as you are going, and end up in fascism in about five to six years. Or, you can choose to become a "communist" and work with us. That is your only choice. Santa Claus is not coming this Christmas.

The Fight Is Now

We are not offering you a "noble gesture." We aim to win. We intend to win, and we have the essential ability to win. We intend to have workers' governments established throughout North America and Western Europe by 1978 or 1979. We know exactly how to do it; we know exactly what strategy has to be followed, beginning with limited struggles today, to get to the point of winning by 1978 or 1979 at the latest.

Right now, the immediate "military" objective is the battle around the Committee to Rebuild National Welfare Rights as an organization of the growing number of unemployed (12-15 per cent of the actual labor force already — not Nixon's phony figures) and trade unionists who understand what has to be done. If the unemployed don't have an organization, the organized workers can't win a single lousy dime. Organizing the unorganized, including the unemployed, has always been the basis for fundamental victories by labor everywhere always.

That is the beginning. That battle must be won at all costs. It is not a battle with guns; it is all the same a class war, with Nixon and his allies and dupes on one side, and we and the unemployed and some trade unionists on the other. In such a war, there are only two sides. This is the first battle that leads toward workers' government by 1978 or 1979.

Get with it! Be human! Build support of any possible kind for the March 31 Philadelphia Welfare Conference. You are fighting for yourself and your children in the only way that counts. Santa Claus isn't coming any Christmas... until you take over the job.

NCLC on Radio

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